

Docket Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
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1857 '00 JAN -5 A10:30

Docket No. 97N-484S

I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed FDA regulations. I am a gay man, someone whom the FDA and CDC classify as "high risk for HIV". Although I am an "anonymous donor" my identity will be revealed to the mother when the child is three months old. Although I am not a legal parent, I am the birth parent and will have contact with my children throughout our lifetimes. I would not be a sperm donor if I thought that I would be putting anybody at risk. I know that my sperm is frozen and quarantined for six months prior to its use. I also know that the window period for HIV is 2-3 months. Given these safeguards, this is how I have chosen to reproduce. Now the FDA wants to try to take this option away from me. All of the women who may choose to use my sperm know that I am a gay man. They even know my intimate sexual practices.

The proposed regulations do not protect the public. The safety precautions already in place do that. What these regulations do is violate my civil rights as to how I choose to have children in my life and the civil rights of the women who may wish to choose me as a donor. Given the six month quarantine, men who have sex with men are not "high risk donors". In fact the only case that the CDC was able to identify as someone who did not turn positive on the HIV antibody test within a six month period was an otherwise healthy heterosexual man who was infected by his wife. Given that, the FDA should consider barring sexually active heterosexual men from being sperm donors. I strongly urge the FDA to reconsider these regulations as they have no credible scientific basis and would violate my civil rights to choose a safe and reasonable method to reproduce.

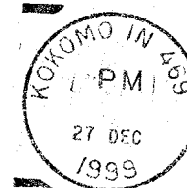
97N 484S

Sincerely,

Stewart Emore
Stewart Emore

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